

Kargali Coal Washery

***606. Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:**
Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons because of which the Kargali Washery did not reach its rated capacity according to schedule;

(b) the amount of loss suffered by the Washery during the last two years;

(c) whether there has been any breach of contract; and

(d) if so, penalty, if any, demanded for the breach of contract?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) The main reason why the washery has not been able to reach its nominal capacity of 1,35,000 tons per month is that it had developed certain defects and the bi-cable ropeway transporting coal from Bokaro had broken down. The ropes have since been replaced by the Japanese contractors free of cost, and the defects also remedied. Trial runs conducted in August and September last show that the washery now has the hourly capacity sufficient to attain ultimately the nominal rate if there is uninterrupted working for 16 hours. Already the output has reached an average of about 1,02,500 tons per month. Steps are now being taken to streamline arrangements to bring the output gradually to the rated capacity.

(b) There is no question of loss as the understanding with the steel plants is that they would pay the Corporation the actual cost of washed coal. It is not as though the washery were working for profit and any fall in output will affect its earnings.

(c) and (d). The final position would be known only after a complete assessment is made of the performance of the washery *vis-a-vis* the contractual stipulations.

Indian Observers for Arab Oil Congress

***607.** { Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri P. G. Deb:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of Indian observers was sent to attend the Arab Oil Congress held in October, 1961;

(b) if so, whether the team submitted their report on return from there; and

(c) what were the main observations/recommendations of the observers?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) An official of the Indian Embassy in Cairo attended the Congress as an observer.

(b) Our observer submitted a report.

(c) The observer did not make any recommendations. He gave a brief account of the proceedings and the important papers presented, and made the following observations:—

(i) No references to India or to the agreement between the Indian Oil Company and the Government of U.S.S.R. were made during the discussions in the Congress when the downward trend of posted prices of petroleum products was being discussed.

(ii) The attempts of some delegates to limit the discussions on prices to Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (O.P.E.C.) came in for criticism from delegates of some countries which were not members of O.P.E.C.

(iii) Papers read on scientific subjects were usually poorly attended